

centrally through said metal pipe from said first end to said second end, portions of said passage within said connecting head defining an annular groove spaced from said first end, said assembly further comprising a unitarily formed sleeve washer having opposite first and second ends, a portion of said sleeve washer extending from said first end toward said second end thereof having a cylindrical inner surface surrounding and closely engaging at least a portion of said cylindrical surface of said connecting head, said sleeve washer further having a cylindrical outer surface facing oppositely from said cylindrical inner surface and extending substantially from said first end of said sleeve washer to a location aligned with said cylindrical body of said metal pipe, and portions of said sleeve washer adjacent said second end thereof having a thick-walled cylindrical portion with a cylindrical inner surface surrounding and closely engaging portions of said cylindrical body adjacent said connecting head, an annular bearing surface extending substantially orthogonally between said cylindrical inner surface of said thick-wall cylindrical portion and said cylindrical outer surface of said sleeve washer.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 5-14 remain in the application. Independent claim 5 is the only independent claim and has been amended to define the invention more clearly.

Claims 5, 6, 9 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the previously cited Takikawa et al. reference considered in view of the newly cited U.S. Patent No. 5,058,935 to Eidsmore. The Examiner specifically acknowledges